GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6251
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
PURCHASE OF HARDWARE BY EMBASSY IN PARIS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the CAG in its report No.2 of 2002 (Civil) vide para 9.1 has brought out the fact of infructuous expenditure on the purchase of hardware, without the required software, by the Embassy of India, Paris;

(b) Whether it is a fact that his Ministry to whom a reference was made by the Mission in 1997 to procure the software remained undecisive till 2000;

(c) Whether the hardware purchased in July 1997 became obsolete rendering infructuous expenditure;

(d) If so, whether the Government has investigated the matter; and

(e) If so, the details of the action taken against the persons found responsible for it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry of External Affairs has been working on adopting a uniform software which could be applicable to all Missions/Posts abroad where computerisation of Consular Wings is proposed to be undertaken. The Ministry has signed a contract with M/s Birlasoft Ltd., to develop the said software.

(c) The configuration of computer hardware in Embassy of India, Paris was drawn up by former Advisor (Computers), India Trade Centre, Brussels, and the hardware purchased has been put to use with the available software.

(d)&(e) Do not arise.